CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising:

~~a.~~ ~~a~~ first spark gap ~~(E1)~~;

~~b.~~ ~~a~~ first pre-trigger system ~~(2)~~ electrically connected to the first spark gap ~~(E1)~~ in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein; and

~~c.~~ ~~a~~ control device ~~(4)~~ electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system ~~(2)~~ in such a manner as to activate it;

the protector device ~~being characterized in that it~~ includes at least one second spark gap wherein ~~(E2)~~ connected in parallel with the first spark gap ~~(E1)~~, and electrically connected to a second pre-trigger system ~~(3)~~ connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system ~~(2)~~, in such a manner that the control device ~~(4)~~ activates the first and second pre-trigger systems ~~(2, 3)~~ simultaneously so as to trigger the first and second spark gaps ~~(E1, E2)~~ simultaneously.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each pre-trigger system ~~(2, 3)~~ is formed by a trigger electrode ~~(5, 6)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each pre-trigger system ~~(2, 3)~~ is formed by a system comprising a trigger electrode ~~(5, 6)~~ together with a secondary circuit ~~(S1, S1')~~ of a transformer ~~(TX1)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each pre-trigger system ~~(2, 3)~~ is an electronic system comprising of a trigger electrode ~~(5, 6)~~ together with a transformer ~~(TX1, TX2)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~of claim 2, ~~3, or 4, characterized in that~~wherein each trigger electrode ~~(5, 6)~~ is electrically connected to the secondary circuit ~~(S1, S1', S2)~~ of an associated transformer ~~(TX1, TX2)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~of claim ~~4 or claim 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the primary circuits ~~(P1, P2)~~ of the transformers ~~(TX1, TX2)~~ corresponding respectively to the first and second pre-trigger systems ~~(2, 3)~~ are connected in parallel.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to any one~~ of claims ~~4 to 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the primary circuits ~~(P1, P2)~~ of the transformers ~~(TX1, TX2)~~ are electrically connected to the output (s) of the control device ~~(4)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to any one~~ of claims ~~3 to 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the primary circuit ~~(P1, P2)~~ of each transformer ~~(TX1, TX2)~~ is electrically connected to a capacitor ~~(C1, C2)~~ that is charged under the control of the control device ~~(4)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~ of claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the device ~~it includes~~ further comprising a third spark gap ~~(E3)~~ connected in parallel with the capacitor ~~(C1, C2) in such a manner~~ such that when the voltage across the terminals of the capacitor ~~(C1, C2)~~ reaches the trigger threshold value for said third spark gap ~~(E3)~~, ~~it short-circuits~~ the capacitor ~~(C1, C2)~~ is short-circuited, which then discharges through the primary circuit ~~(P1, P2)~~ of the transformer ~~(TX1, TX2)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~of claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising ~~it has~~ first and second capacitors ~~(C1, C2)~~ connected in parallel with the third spark gap ~~(E3)~~, and each electrically connected to the primary circuit ~~(P1, P2)~~ of an associated transformer ~~(TX1, TX2)~~.

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11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to any one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the control device ~~(4)~~ is sensitive to voltage.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~according to~~ of claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the control device ~~is made up of~~ comprises fuses ~~(7)~~, varistors ~~(8)~~, and spark gaps ~~(9)~~.

13. (New) The device of claim 3, wherein each trigger electrode is electrically connected to the secondary circuit of an associated transformer.

14. (New) The device of claim 4, wherein each trigger electrode is electrically connected to the secondary circuit of an associated transformer.

15. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the primary circuits of the transformers corresponding respectively to the first and second pre-trigger systems are connected in parallel.